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contents

DECEMBER 09

21 Independence Bowl Preview

Texas A&M will battle the Georgia Bulldogs in the 2009 Independence Bowl.

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

24 Aggie Football Rewind

A look back at the Aggies' games against Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas.

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

28 HORSE with B.J. Holmes

AI's Jeremy KSIONDA challenges Texas A&M guard B.J. Holmes to a game of HORSE.

BY AI STAFF



FIND THE 01

On the Cover: Kevin Matthews, Lee Grimes, Michael Shumard, Howard Morrow, Matt Featherston, Jamie McCoy, Derek Dumas, Anthony Lewis, Jordan Pugh, Justin McQueen and Corey Gibas. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

in every issue

6	Publisher's Note	30	EA: Awards & Bowl Predictions
8	Snapshot	33	The 12th Man
14	Maroon & White Recruiting: Liucci's Top 110 in 2010 <i>BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04</i>	34	The 12th Man: Faces of Aggieland <i>BY JASON MCCONNELL '01</i>
17	Scoreboard: Soccer & Volleyball	36	Aggie Owned & Operated
18	Scoreboard: Aggie Basketball	38	Old Army

Do you recognize the above photo from campus? Send an e-mail to photo@aggiemag.com and let us know where it was taken. Be the first to get it right and we'll send you a free gift. Look for the answer in the next issue of AI. The photo in the November 09 issue was of the "Last Corps Trip" on the wall at the Bonfire Memorial site.

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Publisher's Note

Howdy!

When debating who to feature on the cover of this issue, several names immediately came to mind.

Jerrod Johnson was certainly at the top of our list. The junior QB had one of the best seasons in Texas A&M history, earning second-team All-Big 12 honors along the way (first team in our opinion). Johnson's remarkable performance in the Texas game garnered national attention, vaulting him into early discussions as a contender for next year's Heisman Trophy.

Von Miller was a candidate as well. The junior from DeSoto went from part-time player last year to national sack leader and first-team All-American this season – the first Aggie to earn first-team All-American honors since Jason Webster in 1999.

While either would have made a good choice, we decided this was the perfect time to pay tribute to the team's senior class. They have experienced plenty of ups and downs over the past four years and were integral in the team's improvement this season. See another picture of the group on page 21, followed by our Independence Bowl preview on page 22 and our pictorial review of the Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas games on page 24.

The Aggie soccer and volleyball teams had successful runs in the postseason before falling in the Sweet 16. For soccer, aspirations were higher going into the season, but a rash of injuries made reaching the Women's College Cup a tall order. Meanwhile, Coach Corbelli's volleyball squad was invited to the NCAAs for the first time since 2005, but they weren't just satisfied with being there. Unfortunately, advancing past the round of 16 wasn't in the cards. See more on page 17.

The men's and women's basketball teams are enjoying success on the hardcourt so far this season. Before long they will be lacquering them up for Big 12 play. See more basketball on page 18.

Speaking of basketball, we like to do fun features with our staff whenever we get an opportunity. Check out BJ vs. JK on page 28 to find out how Al's Jeremy Ksonda '04 fared against A&M sharpshooter B.J. Holmes in a friendly game of HORSE. Also, you can find the annual AI Awards and staff bowl predictions on page 30 and see if you agree with our selections.

I'm looking forward to watching the Ags take on the Bulldogs in Shreveport. Let's send this senior class off with a bowl victory!

Gig'em Ags and BTHO Georgia!

Brian '01

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snapshot



miller meet mccoy

Junior Von Miller levels Texas QB Colt McCoy during the first half of the Lone Star Showdown on Thanksgiving night. The nation's sack leader finished with 1.5 sacks in the game raising his total to 17 on the year – just three behind Jacob Green's school record.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

snapshot



campaign launcher

Junior QB Jerrod Johnson runs for a big gain during the second half of the Texas game. Johnson put on one of the best performances ever by an Aggie QB, generating 439 yards of total offense (342 pass, 97 rush) against a top-5 defense. Let the 2010 Jerrod for Heisman campaign begin.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01



with authority

Senior Bryan Davis shows his emotion to the Toyota Center crowd following an emphatic dunk during a second half rally against New Mexico. Despite a near double-double by Davis and 29 points from Donald Sloan, the Aggies' comeback bid against the undefeated Lobos fell short.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01





TEXAS A&M

classrankings

BY JEREMY KENDA '04

As the 2010 recruiting season reaches its end, we thought it would be appropriate to roll out Billy Liucci's Top 110 in Texas list to see how the Aggies have fared thus far, as well as take a look at who's left to finish out the class.

As you'll see, there's quite a bit of maroon in the offensive sections (maroon highlights indicate Aggie commitments), particularly at quarterback and offensive line. We've discussed the offensive line class frequently over the past few months, but it's worth noting at least once more that this group has all the makings of a very special unit. Combined with two of the top three quarterback prospects in the state, the future of the Aggie "O" looks to be in great shape.

There are a couple of offensive commitments missing from Liucci's Top 110, but not because they aren't ranked highly enough. Shreveport (LA) Huntington's Jarrett Fobbs committed to the Aggies in July and has been pegged as a receiver by the A&M coaching staff. As a senior, Fobbs did a little bit of everything for Huntington, piling up 705 yards and 12 touchdowns on 84 rushing attempts, as well as 649 yards and 5 touchdowns on 55 receptions. When needed, Fobbs would switch over to the defensive side of the ball, and was good enough to tally 4 interceptions in limited duty. If Fobbs were to hail from the lone star state, he would probably be pegged as the state's top "athlete."

Fobbs is joined on offense by Littleton Colorado's Mister Jones, a 6-2, 215 pound running back who switched his commitment from Colorado to A&M upon an official visit in mid December. As a senior, Jones posted 1,317 yards on 163 attempts for an outstanding 8.1 yards per carry, in addition to scoring 18 touchdowns. Like Fobbs, Jones has the size and athleticism to play either side of the ball, and could possibly get a look at linebacker during his tenure at A&M.

Defensively, there's not as much maroon across the page, particularly at defensive tackle and defensive back. Fortunately, there's still some time remaining for the Aggies to pick up a player or two for each of those positions. In addition, the Aggies have received commitments from a trio of defensive linemen from Louisiana that would stack up against the best Texas has to offer. South Beauregard's Ivan Robinson, Franklin's Gavin Stansbury and Shreveport Evangel's Brandon Jackson were all targeted early by the Aggie coaching staff and gave their commitments to A&M in the spring. Robinson is the jewel of the bunch, and would rank in the top three if he were in Texas.

The Aggies will look to close out the class with a couple of defensive backs. Two likely candidates are Fort Bend's Toney Hurd, Jr., a Notre Dame commitment as of press time, and Brenham's Terrell Reese, who doesn't appear on the list but has risen up the charts after a strong senior season at Brenham HS. ■

For complete coverage of Texas A&M recruiting, contact Billy Liucci of the Maroon & White Report at (979) 630-7361 or by visiting [maroonwhite.com](http://www.maroonwhite.com).



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QUARTERBACKS (11)

Connor Wood	6-4, 205	Second Baptist	Texas
Jameill Showers	6-1, 214	Killeen Shoemaker	Texas A&M
Matt Joeckel	6-4, 220	Arlington	Texas A&M
Zach Lee	6-4, 200	McKinney	Texas
Case McCoy	6-2, 170	Graham	Texas Tech
Scotty Young	6-3, 190	Denton Ryan	Kansas
Jacoby Walker	6-2, 190	Sprng Westfield	Missouri
James Franklin	6-3, 215	Lake Dallas	Texas A&M
Clay Honeycutt	6-2, 185	Dickinson	Texas A&M
Tyler Arndt	6-4, 205	Cerro	Texas
Sam Carter	6-1, 205	Katy Morton Ranch	T.J.
RUNNING BACKS (9)			
Lache Seastrunk	5-10, 205	Tempe	Texas
Traylon Stead	6-2, 205	Cedar Hill	Texas
Ben Malena	5-10, 200	Denison	Texas
D.J. Jones	6-0, 220	Arlington Lamar	Oregon
Ja'Terian Douglas	5-11, 175	Arlington Lamar	Michigan
Dontae Williams	6-1, 210	Arlne	Utah
Stephen Hopkins	6-0, 220	F.M. Marcus	Texas A&M
Princeton Collins	5-11, 185	Westwood	DiSoito
Marcus Murphy	5-9, 160	DiSoito	Texas
WIDE RECEIVERS (16)			
Darius White	6-4, 205	F.W. Dunbar	Texas
Mike Davis	6-2, 185	Dallas Skyline	Texas
Chris Jones	6-0, 170	Dangerfield	Texas
DeAndrew White	6-0, 170	North Shore	Auburna
Nate Askew	6-1, 220	SA Madison	Texas A&M
Sheldon McClain	6-3, 185	C. Bonn Steele	Oklahoma
Kevin Johnson	6-2, 190	Cy Ridge	Oklahoma St.
Malcome Kennedy	6-0, 195	Cajun	Texas A&M
Darius Terrell	6-3, 205	Devoto	Texas
John Harris	6-2, 185	Naaman Forest	Texas
Kyle Guimard	6-1, 190	Ennis	SMU
Jordan Leslie	6-2, 195	Tomball	Baylor
Ross Apo	6-2, 190	Oak Ridge	Houston
Quentin Parks	6-2, 205	Alaska Or ta	Texas
Eddie Johnson	6-4, 205	Midlothian	Texas
Jordan Jolly	6-2, 170	Ek ngs	Texas

TIGHT ENDS (11)

Nazuan Lee	6-5, 260	Crockett	Texas
Antonio Johnson	6-6, 235	D.Doi	Houston
DeAndre Perry	6-3, 210	Austin Bowie	Texas
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN (17)			
Jake Matthews	6-5, 275	Elkins	Texas A&M
Trey Hopkins	6-4, 273	North Shore	Texas
Luke Joeckel	6-5, 270	Arlington	Texas A&M
Dominic Espinosa	6-3, 275	Cedar Park	Texas
Evan Washington	6-5, 290	DeSoto	SMU
Cedric Ogboehi	6-5, 260	Allen	Texas A&M
Iyurus Thompson	6-6, 290	Pflugerville	Oklahoma
Adam Shead	6-4, 305	Cedar Hill	Oklahoma
Daryl Williams	6-6, 270	Lake Dallas	Oklahoma
Garrett Gramling	6-5, 305	Denton Ryan	Texas A&M
Austin Woods	6-5, 285	Heath	Oklahoma
Chad Lindsay	6-4, 320	The Woodlands	Alabama
Shep Klinker	6-5, 290	Katy	Texas A&M
Dalvin Glass	6-3, 270	Dallas Carter	Texas
Aleon Ca houn	6-7, 315	Navasota	Texas
Cam Feldt	6-4, 285	Pilot Point	Arkansas
Paul Ives	6-2, 270	North Garland	Nebraska
DEFENSIVE TACKLES (8)			
Taylor Bible	6-3, 280	Denton Guyer	Texas
Ashton Dorsey	6-3, 275	John Tyler	Texas
De'Aires Cotton	6-4, 275	Arlo Taylor	Texas
Jatashun Beachum	6-2, 275	A. Maceo Sim th	Texas
Jay Guy	6-1, 310	Adolf E. Schnitzer	Nebraska
Daniel Noble	6-4, 295	F.M. Marqu s	Oklahoma
Torrea Petersen	6-4, 285	SA East Central	Oklahoma
Dominique Henderson	6-4, 260	SA Roosevelt	Baylor
DEFENSIVE ENDS (9)			
Jackson Jeffcoat	6-5, 230	Piano West	Texas Tech
Reggie Wilson	6-4, 240	Haltom C ty	Texas
Nehemiah Hicks	6-3, 220	Hutto	Texas A&M
Jackson Richards	6-4, 240	Southlake Carroll	Texas Tech
Greg Daniels	6-4, 240	St. Paul X	Texas
Damontre Moore	6-5, 225	Rovlett	Texas A&M
Holmes Onwukwe	6-3, 220	Cedar Park	Florida State
Joseph Okafor	6-6, 230	Beaure	Oklahoma St.
Clarence Lee	6-4, 210	Jefferson	Houston

LINEBACKERS (11)

Coney Nelson	6-1, 210	Dallas Skyline	Texas A&M
Shaun Lewis	6-1, 200	F.B. Hightower	Oklahoma St.
Tevin Jackson	6-2, 190	Garland	Texas
Aaron Benson	6-1, 205	Cedar Hill	Texas
Dominique Patterson	6-1, 210	Dallas Skyline	Texas A&M
Aaron Franklin	6-1, 215	Marsha	Oklahoma
Caleb Lavey	6-3, 220	Keene	Oklahoma St.
Luke Mundie	6-3, 200	lein Oak	L.J.
Rashad Favors	6-1, 215	F.W. Dunbar	Oklahoma
Kris Catlin	6-2, 215	SA Madison	Oklahoma St.
Stephen Maeweather	6-3, 205	Sharpstown	Oklahoma St.
DEFENSIVE BACKS (15)			
Ahmad Dixon	6-1, 195	Waco Midway	Baylor
Bryant Jackson	6-3, 175	Spring Branch Springs	Texas
Tyler Stephenson	5-10, 175	Lancaster	Baylor
Carrington Byrdom	6-0, 165	Ukran	Texas
Toney Hunt Jr	5-10, 170	FB Marshall	Notre Dame
Kacy Rodgers	6-2, 185	Southlake Carroll	Marl
Adrian White	5-11, 170	DeSoto	Texas
Eddrick Lofton	5-11, 195	Norm lz	Oklahoma
Chante Evans	6-0, 170	Seguin	Nebraska
Quentin Hayes	6-1, 175	Lancaster	Oklahoma
Tommie Saunders	6-1, 195	SA Madison	Oklahoma St.
Harvey Jackson	6-1, 180	Hightower	Oklahoma St.
Alton Demby	5-10, 180	North Shore	Houston
Denzelle White	6-3, 185	Plano East	Houston
Zach McMillan	5-10, 160	FB Dut es	Houston
ATHLETES (11)			
James Haynes	6-1, 180	West Orange-Stark	Oklahoma St.
Adrian Phillips	5-11, 190	Garland	Texas
Trey Franks	5-9, 170	West Orange-Stark	Oklahoma
Travare Battle-Smith	5-11, 175	SA L. Ray	T.C.U.
Dominique Sanders	6-1, 190	F.W. Dunbar	Texas
Brent Walters	5-11, 180	Wili	Utah
Justin Gilbert	6-1, 175	Hurst	Oklahoma St.
Joe Powell	6-1, 175	Dallas Skyline	Oklahoma
Darian Lazard	6-0, 170	Dawson	Texas
LeKendrick Williams	6-0, 170	Sharpstown	Texas A&M
Jeremy Johnson	6-2, 175	St. John	West Virginia

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(soccer) The soccer team finished the 2009 season ranked 12th in the nation after advancing to the round of 16 for the 10th time in program history. The Aggies ended the season after falling 2-1 in double overtime against Florida State. Senior Emily Patterson (left) won the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award for being the most outstanding senior student-athlete in NCAA Division I women's soccer. (volleyball) The volleyball team's run in the NCAA Tournament came to an end at the Sweet Sixteen as the Aggies fell to No. 2 Texas. Texas A&M advanced to the NCAAs for the first time since 2005 and played in its first regional semifinal match in 2008 after defeating No. 16 Arizona and No. 18 LSU in the first two rounds.





(cont'd.) With only a few games remaining until conference play begins, the women's basketball team is looking better than ever and so far this season the Aggies seized an early opportunity to make a national statement in the 74 Classic by upsetting No. 19 Clemson and No. 22 Minnesota, while narrowly losing to eventual tournament champion No. 3 West Virginia. The only other blemish on the Aggies' non-conference schedule was from a three point loss to undefeated New Mexico at the Toyota Center in Houston. After beginning the season unranked, Texas A&M has climbed as high as No. 16 in the nation. (women's) Gary Blair's squad began the season ranked No. 19 in the nation and have been rising in the polls ever since, dominating their opponents along the way. Their statement victory came in the second game of the season, an 18-point upset over No. 6 Duke. Just when it appeared the Aggies would cruise into conference play unscathed, they were bitten by the injury bug and upset by a determined TCU team on the road. The Aggies look to get healthy and back on track before Big 12 play begins.





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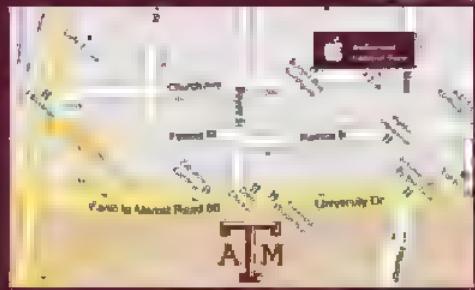
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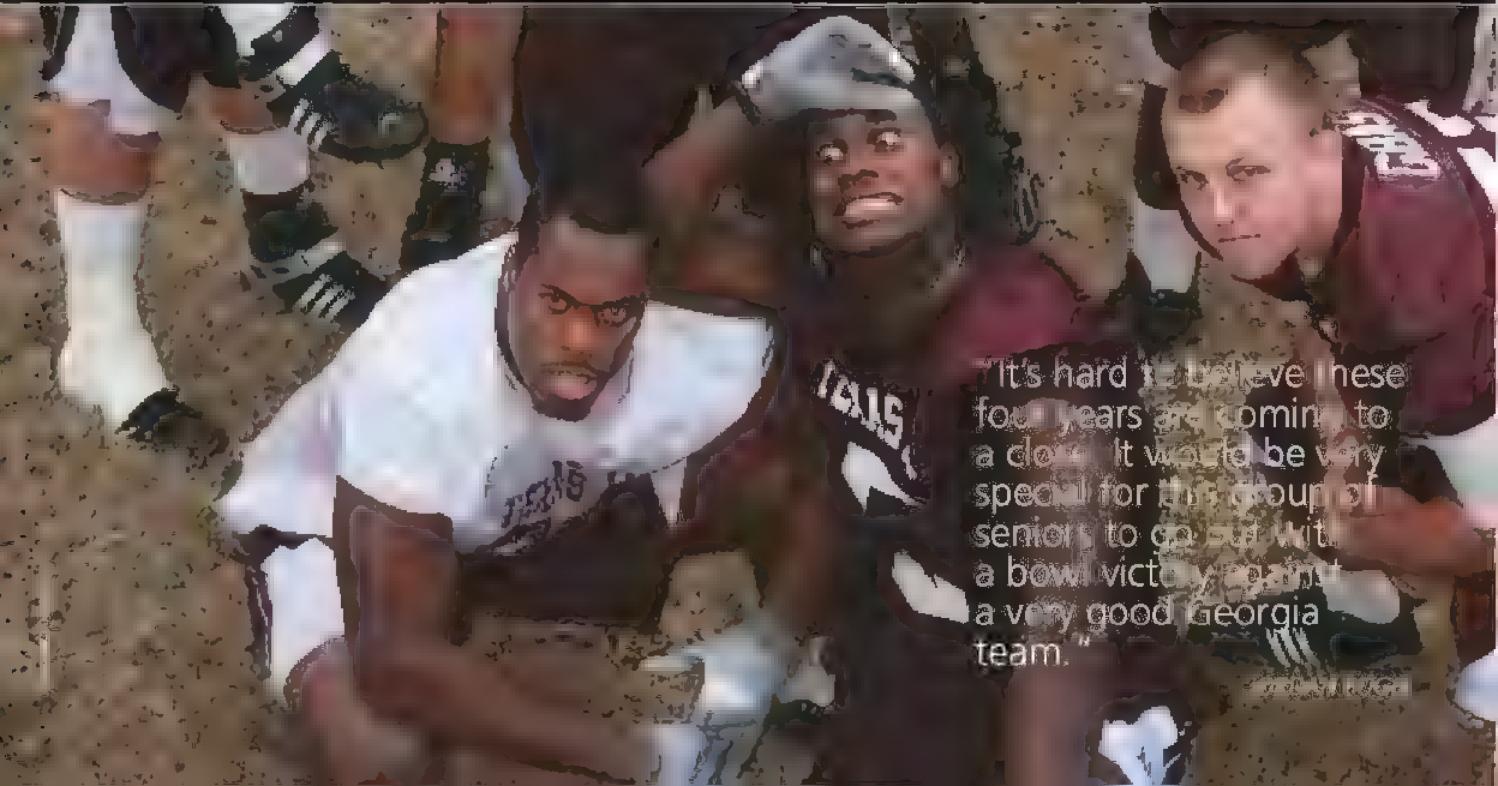
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BOWLBOUND

Texas A&M will battle Georgia in the Independence Bowl

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04



"It's hard to believe these four years are coming to a close. It would be very special for this group of seniors to go out with a bowl victory against a very good Georgia team."



OFFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

#8 WR AJ Green (6-4, 207, sophomore)

Despite playing in only nine games in 2009, Georgia WR AJ Green was named to the First-Team All-SEC squad. At 6-4 and 207 pounds, Green will look strikingly similar to the Aggies' No. 8, WR Jeff Fuller, and both sophomore playmakers will want to end the season on a high note as they look forward to important junior campaigns. Green's statistics aren't off the charts (47 receptions, 751 yards, 6 TDs, 16 yards per catch), but his size and playmaking ability force opposing defenses to game-plan around him.



DEFENSIVE PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

#35 LB Rennie Curran (5-11, 225, junior)

Another First-Team All-SEC selection, Rennie Curran is the anchor of the Georgia defense. His 122 tackles this season marked the second time he's gone over the century mark in his career. Curran is not considered a flashy player, as his tackles for loss, sacks, and interception numbers aren't high, but he is as sure of a tackler as you will find in the country, which will probably make it difficult for the Aggies to break off big plays.



SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

#13 P Drew Butler (6-2, 203, sophomore)

Aggie fans are used to seeing the nation's best punters. Unfortunately, he will be playing for the other team. In this year's Independence Bowl. In addition to being named First-Team All-SEC, Drew Butler recently received the Ray Guy Award – given to the nation's top punter. He's a virtual lock to receive First-Team All-American accolades as well. If field position becomes an important factor, Butler could be an integral part of the game.



On Dec. 28, Texas A&M will take on Georgia in the Advocare V100 Independence Bowl in Shreveport, LA. Although the Bulldogs are coming off a disappointing 7-5 campaign after beginning the season ranked No. 13, they managed to end on a high note by knocking off 7th-ranked Georgia Tech, 30-24.

Offensively, Georgia came into the season having to replace first round draft picks Matt Stafford (QB) and Knowshon Moreno (RB). Senior QB Joe Cox put up solid numbers in Stafford's absence, throwing for 2,426 yards and 22 touchdowns, but his 14 interceptions proved costly in several games. In all, the Bulldogs turned the ball over 27 times in 2009 while only forcing 10 turnovers on defense.

Head coach Mark Richt fired three of his defensive assistants at season's end, including co-defensive coordinators Willie Martinez and John Jancek. While those coaches will be gone, the players remain the same, and the underperforming but physical Bulldog defenders will undoubtedly enter the bowl game with a chip on their shoulder. The defensive cupboard is far from bare, however. The Bulldogs are led by junior LB Rennie Curran (left), sophomore DE Justin Houston (38 tackles, 15 TFL, 7.5 sacks) and junior S Reshad Jones (68 tackles, 3 Int's).

TEXAS A&M AGGIES (6-6)	I-BOWL BY THE NUMBERS	GEORGIA BULLDOGS (7-5)
OFFENSIVE STATISTICS		DEFENSIVE STATISTICS
465.33 (5)	Total Offense/Defense (National Rank)	361.83 (79)
33.92 (15)	Scoring Offense/Defense	26.42 (70)
10.72 (2)	Passing Offense/Defense	200.83 (33)
274.92 (22)	3rd Down Conversion % Offense/Defense	46.20 (36)
50.54 (6)	4th Down Conversion % Offense/Defense	52.94 (73)
47.06 (68)	Red Zone Offense/Defense	86% (88)
77% (92)	First Downs Offense/Defense	47.75 (29)
26.08 (2)	Sacks Allowed Per Game / Sacks Per Game	2.33 (36)
2.25 (73)	Passing Efficiency/Passing Emergency Defense	137.14 (90)
DEFENSIVE STATISTICS		OFFENSIVE STATISTICS
431.33 (107)	Total Defense/Offense (National Rank)	361.83 (79)
168.58 (87)	Rushing Defense/Offense	157.08 (54)
262.75 (111)	Passing Defense/Offense	264.75 (76)
36.69 (43)	3rd Down Conversion % Defense/Offense	48.82 (70)
58.33 (91)	4th Down Conversion % Defense/Offense	57.14 (33)
78% (28)	Red Zone Defense/Offense	93% (10)
22.42 (107)	First Downs Defense/Offense	29.15 (81)
2.92 (8)	Sacks For Game/Sacks Allowed Per Game	1.00 (12)
135.56 (84)	Passing Efficiency Defense/Passing Efficiency	132.67 (47)

2009 GEORGIA RESULTS (7-5, 4-4 SEC)

Sept. 5	at Oklahoma State
Sept. 12	South Carolina
Sept. 19	at Arkansas
Sept. 26	Florida
Oct. 3	at Florida (Jacksonville)
Oct. 10	Tennessee Tech
Nov. 14	Auburn
Nov. 21	Kentucky
Nov. 28	at Georgia Tech

GEORGIA BOWL GAMES WITH COACH MARK DUGGINS (2004-08) & BRIAN BOYD (2009)

1/1/2004	Capital One	Purdue 34-27 (W)
1/1/2005	Outback	Wisconsin 24-21 (W)
1/3/2006	Sugar	West Virginia 35-38 (L)
12/30/2006	Chick-fil-A	Virginia Tech 31-20 (W)
1/1/2008	Sugar	Hawaii 41-10 (W)
1/1/2009	Capital One	Michigan State 38-34 (W)

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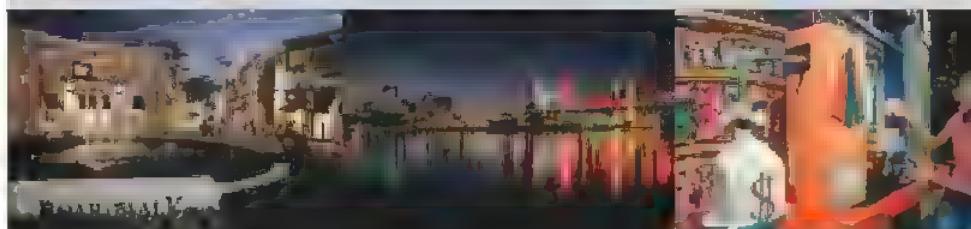
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Junior LB Michael Hodges intercepts a Landry Jones pass and returns it 28 yards to the Oklahoma 6 yard line. The turnover set up the only touchdown in the game for Texas A&M – a 9-yard pass from Jerrod Johnson to Jeff Fuller. The deficit was only 14-10 at that point in the game, but the Aggies fumbled several times on special teams, leading to the Sooners' 65-10 victory.

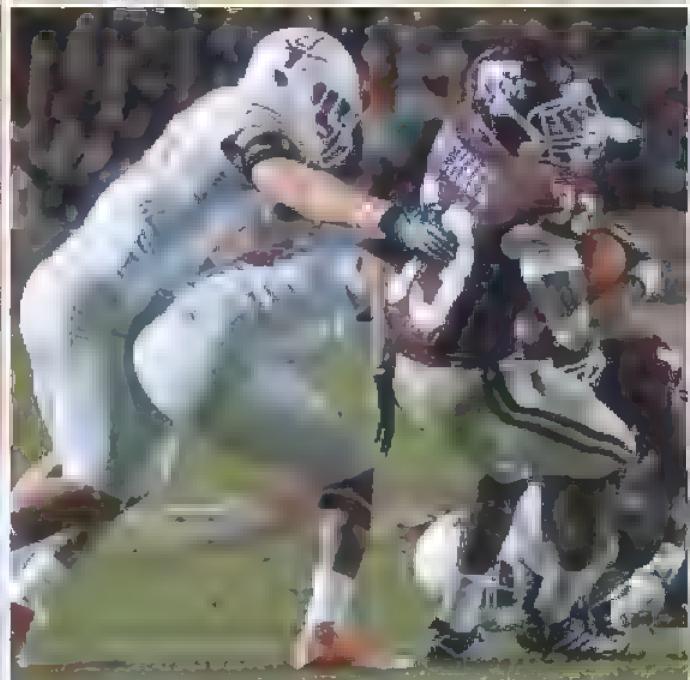
FOOTBALL REWIND

A look back at the Aggies' games against Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

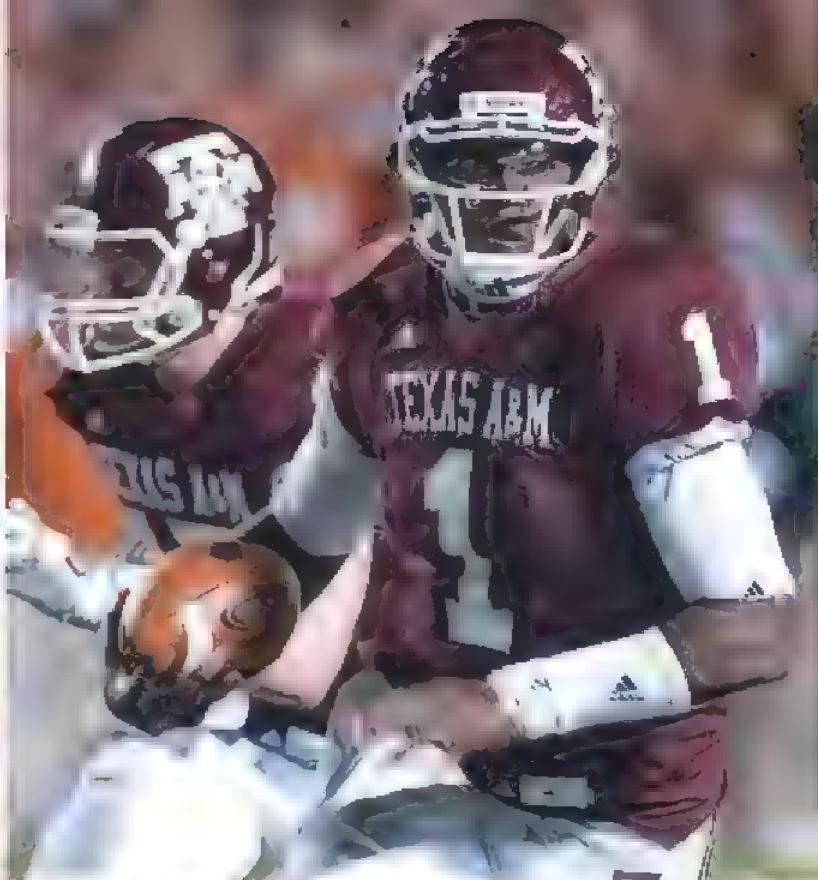


(left) Senior DB Jordan Pugh returns an interception 39 yards against Baylor. The Aggies had three picks in the 38-3 victory over the Bears. (above, left) Junior ACK Von Miller records his only tackle of the game against RB Jay Finley. (top left) Junior QB Jerrod Johnson jukes a defender for a nice gain. (above) Sophomore Ryan Tannehill runs after one of his team-leading four catches for 40 yards. (below) Sophomore DT Eddie Brown sacks Nick Florence for a 12-yard loss. Florence tried to throw the ball away at the last minute but was flagged for intentional grounding.





(above) Freshman RB Christine Michael spins away from two defenders and strolls in for a touchdown during the fourth quarter of the Texas game (left) Sophomore DB Trent Hunter hurries Colt McCoy into a quick throw. (top left) Senior WR Howard Morrow skies for the 14-yard touchdown pass from junior QB Jerrod Johnson in the second quarter, tying the game at 21. (top) Led by junior JACK Von Miller, the Aggie defense lines up for the snap. (facing page, top) Johnson runs for some of his career high 97 rushing yards against Texas. (facing page, bottom) Jeff Fuller blows past the Longhorn defensive backs on his way to a 70-yard touchdown reception on the third play of the game. Led by heisman-esque performance from Johnson, the Ags played well enough to win, but were outscored 49-39.



BJ VS. JK

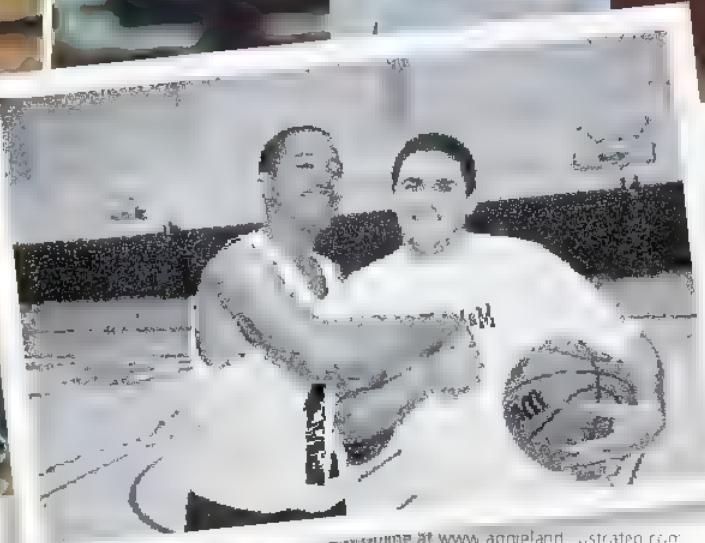
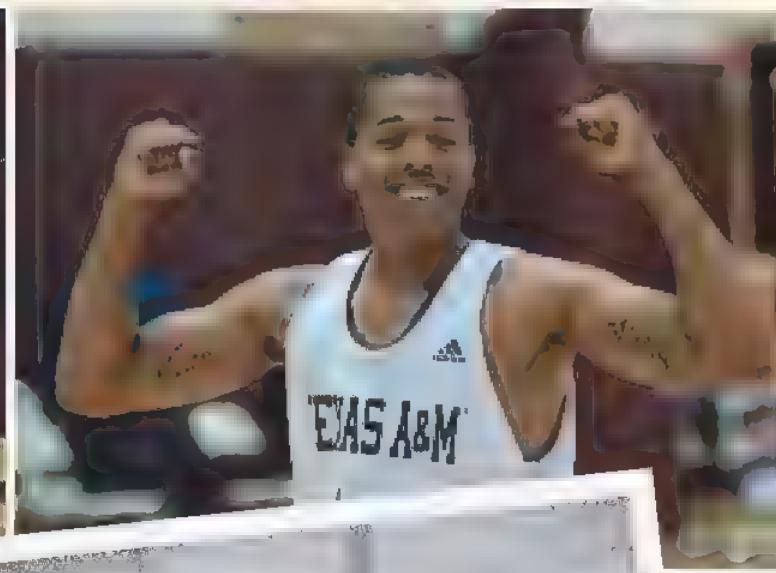
AI'S JEREMY KSIONDA
CHALLENGES TEXAS A&M
GUARD B.J. HOLMES TO
A GAME OF HORSE

TALE OF THE TAPE

HEIGHT	6'7"
WEIGHT	190 lbs
D.O.B.	10/10/82
HOMETOWN	HOUSTON
COLLEGE	TEXAS A&M
FAVORITE NBA TEAM	PHOENIX & CLEVELAND
FAVORITE PLAYER	LEBRON AND JAMES
FAVORITE FOOD	PIZZA
FAVORITE MOVIES	LITTLE GIANTS
FAVORITE MOMENT FROM LAST SEASON	JOHNSON'S GAME-WINNING SHOT AGAINST NEBRASKA
IN ONE WORD, DESCRIBE PLAYING THIS GAME OF HORSE	JUST ONE? DIFFICULT
AS GOOD AS IT GETS & CADDYSHACK	WIN OVER MISSOURI TO CLINCH NCAA BIRTH
REMATCH	REMATCH



The epic game of ORSE got off to a rocky start as Al's Jeremy Kanda (JK) had a tough time handling the pressure of playing against B.J. Holmes and finding his range from outside. Before he knew it, JK had "HOR" and appeared to be on his way to getting run out of the gym. Just then, JK pulled out a chair (his secret weapon - sat down, and attempted his "signature shot" from where the team's bench would normally be. B.J. was stunned as it fell through the bottom of the net and missed his attempt earning an "H" of his own. Suddenly it looked like anyone's game as JK settled down and started hitting some more traditional 3-pointers. However, just like he does in Aggie basketball games, B.J. made those shots rather effortlessly. It was an even game until B.J. pulled out some secret weapons of his own. First it was a 360-degree layup that couldn't be matched by JK followed by B.J.'s signature shot - from half court - which swished as it hit the bottom of the net. JK's attempt was about as close as it could be without going in and the game was over.



AI AWARDS AND PREDICTIONS

BY AI STAFF

The regular season is over, conference champions have been crowned and only the bowl matchups remain in the 2009 college football season. That means it's time for the AI staff to hand out our annual Big 12 Awards and make our bowl predictions. The winner of the bowl contest earns bragging rights for a year, while the loser has to write the editor's note in the next issue. ■

BIG 12 AWARDS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
WR Jordan Shipley, Texas

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
DL Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska

OFFENSIVE FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
RB Christine Michael, Texas A&M

DEFENSIVE FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
DL Aldon Smith, Missouri

COACH OF THE YEAR
Bo Pelini, Nebraska

ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR
Nolan Cromwell, Texas A&M



ALL BIG 12 TEAM

OFFENSE

QB Jerrod Johnson, Texas A&M
RB Danie Thomas, Kansas State
RB DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma*
WR Jordan Shipley, Texas
WR Ryan Broyles, Oklahoma
TE Jamie McCoy, Texas A&M
OL Russell Okung, Oklahoma State
OL Trent Williams, Oklahoma
OL Nick Stringer, Kansas State
OL Nate Solder, Colorado
OL Kurtis Gregory, Missouri



DEFENSE

DL Ndamukong Suh, Nebraska*
DL Jared Crick, Nebraska
DL Von Miller, Texas A&M
DL Jeremy Beal, Oklahoma
LB Sean Weatherspoon, Missouri
LB Jesse Smith, Iowa State
LB Travis Lewis, Oklahoma*
DB Earl Thomas, Texas
DB Perrish Cox, Oklahoma State
DB Larry Asante, Nebraska
DB Chauncey Brown, Colorado

SPECIAL TEAMS

K Grant Ressel, Missouri
P Quinn Sharp, Oklahoma State
KR Brandon Banks, Kansas State
PR Brandon Banks, Kansas State

* AP Media Survey COT



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AT STAFF BOWL PREDICTIONS

	BRIAN DAVIS	KIM DAVIS	ROB HAVENS	JEREMY KSIONDA	STACEY KSIONDA	JASON MCCONNELL	KATIE MCCONNELL	SHAWN KAUSE	GENTRY WOODARD	LYSSA HAMILTON
New Mexico Fresno State vs. Wyoming	Fresno State	Wyoming	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Fresno State	Wyoming	Fresno State
St. Petersburg JCF vs. Rutgers	JCF	Rutgers	JCF	JCF	JCF	JCF	JCF	Rutgers	JCF	JCF
R&L Carriers New Orleans Oregon State vs. Middle Tennessee	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Middle Tennessee	Middle Tennessee	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss	Southern Miss
MAAC Los Angeles Oregon State vs. BYU	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State	Oregon State	BYU	BYU	BYU
S.D. County Credit Union Poinsettia	Cal	Cal	Cal	Cal	Utah	Cal	Cal	Utah	Cal	Utah
Bank of Hawaii Washington vs. SMU	SMU	SMU	Nevada	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	Nevada	SMU	Nevada
Little Caesars Michigan vs. Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Marshall	Ohio	Ohio	Marshall	Marshall	Ohio	Ohio	Marshall
Weinstein Car Care Pitt vs. North Carolina	Pitt	North Carolina	Pitt	Pitt	North Carolina	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt
Emerald College	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC
Gaylord Hotels Music City Kentucky vs. Concord	Clemson	Clemson	Kentucky	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
AdvoCare V100 Independence Tennessee vs. Georgia	A&M	A&M	A&M	Georgia	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	Georgia	Georgia
EagleBank Florida Atlantic vs. Middle Tennessee	JCA	JCA	CA	Temple	Temple	JCA	JCA	JCA	JCA	JCA
Country Financial Arkansas vs. Washington	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Miami	Wisconsin	Miami	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Country Bowl Bowling Green vs. Idaho	Bowling Green	Idaho	Idaho	Idaho	Bowling Green	Idaho	Bowling Green	Idaho	Idaho	Idaho
Pacific Life Holiday Washington vs. Michigan	Nebraska	Nebraska	Arizona	Arizona	Arizona	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska
Dell Helicopter Armed Forces Houston vs. Air Force	Houston	Air Force	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston
Bank of America Oklahoma vs. Stanford	Stanford	Stanford	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Stanford	Stanford	Oklahoma
Texas Missouri	Missouri	Navy	Navy	Missouri	Missouri	Navy	Navy	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri
Bank of America Minnesota vs. Iowa State	Minnesota	Iowa State	Iowa State	Minnesota	Iowa State	Iowa State	Iowa State	Iowa State	Iowa State	Minnesota
Shoebox Virginia Tech vs. Tennessee	Tennessee	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech
Outback Northwestern vs. Auburn	Auburn	NW	NW	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Capital One Texas State	Penn State	LSU	LSU	Penn State	LSU	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	LSU	LSU
Concita Minolta Gator West Virginia vs. Florida State	West Virginia	Florida State	Florida State	West Virginia	Florida State	West Virginia	Florida State	Florida State	West Virginia	West Virginia
Rose Bowl Game by Citi Ohio State vs. Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
Allstate Sugar Florida vs. Cincinnati	Florida	Florida	Florida	Cincinnati	Florida	Cincinnati	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Bank of America South Florida vs. Northern Illinois	South Florida	Northern Illinois	South Florida	South Florida	South Florida	Northern Illinois	South Florida	Northern Illinois	South Florida	South Florida
Bank of America South Carolina vs. Connecticut	South Carolina	South Carolina	Conn	South Carolina	South Carolina	Conn	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina	South Carolina
TIA&T Cotton Ole Miss vs. Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Oklahoma State	Ole Miss	Oklahoma State	Ole Miss	Ole Miss
AutoZone Liberty Arkansas vs. East Carolina	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	East Carolina	Arkansas	Arkansas
Valero Alamo Michigan State vs. Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State	Texas Tech	Michigan State	Michigan State
Tostitos Fiesta Ole State vs. TCU	Boise State	TCU	TCU	TCU	Boise State	Boise State	Boise State	TCU	TCU	TCU
FedEx Orange Florida State vs. Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Iowa	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Georgia Tech	Iowa	Georgia Tech
GMAC Michigan	Troy	Troy	Central Michigan	Central Michigan	Central Michigan	Troy	Central Michigan	Troy	Central Michigan	Central Michigan
Citi BCS National Championship Game Alabama vs. Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama

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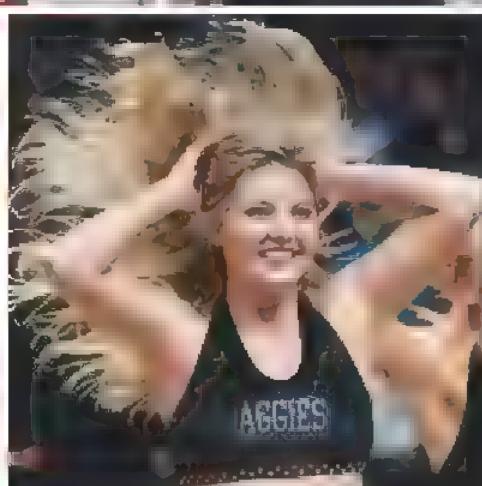
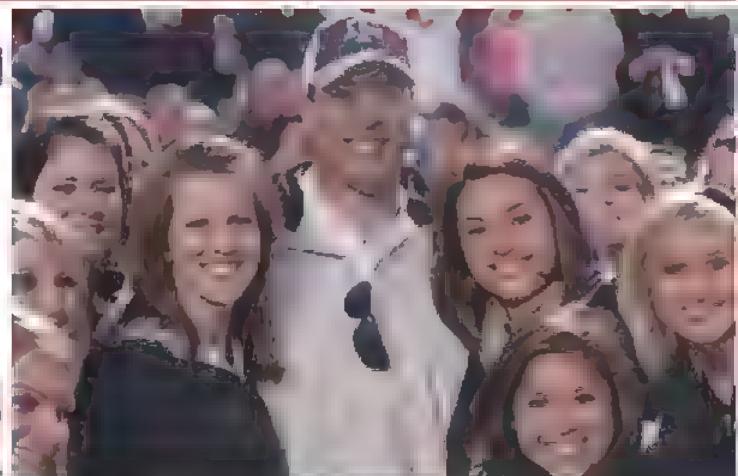
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the 12th man



(above, left) Coach Mark Turgeon shows his appreciation of the student crowd at the Samford basketball game. (above, right) ESPN sideline reporter Erin Andrews came to Aggieland for the Texas game. (left and below) Several professional athletes attended Texas A&M football games in November including Boston Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett, Carolina Panther running back Mike Goodson and New York Yankee first baseman Mark Teixeira. (bottom, left) Texas Governor Rick Perry and his daughter at the Texas game. (bottom, middle and right) The Aggie Dance Team entertains the Reed Arena crowd.





MACEY MURRAY '12
AGGIE DANCE TEAM
BRYAN, TX

Why I love A&M: grew up in Bryan so I have always known about A&M and the traditions love the football games. I love sawing varsity's horns off during the War Hymn

Favorite tradition: I don't know if it is a tradition or not, but when someone on the other team fouls out and the crowd chants "left right right left right"

Hardest part of being on the Dance Team: Waking up at 7 a.m. for practices and being happy to be here

Typical practice for the Dance Team: We come in at 7 a.m. We learn new dances or practice ones we know. We set the upcoming game. We have three dances we do every game. We set the dances we do with the band. We do the dances over and over until we perfect them. Then we do them over and over again.

Typical game day for the Dance Team: About 2 hours before the game you get ready with makeup and hair. We get here about an hour before the game and we practice. After we practice, we fix our makeup and head out to the court.

Favorite Movies: Taken, Wedding Crashers, Anything funny really

Favorite Music/Artist: Rap and Country

Favorite TV Shows: So You Think You Can Dance, Gossip Girl, One Tree Hill

I like to spend my weekends either going out or staying at home and watching movies, depending on my mood

Strange or unusual fact about me: I can pop a lot of bones in my body that probably shouldn't be popped. It doesn't seem normal when I do it, especially when I am dancing.

Attribute I like most about myself: I am very honest, genuine and humble. Not like most girls.

Attribute I like least about myself: I don't have a lot of patience. I wish I had some more of that

If I had more time, I would travel the world. I would like to go to every country

Favorite food: Wings 'N More. I used to work there and I still like to eat there

Five people I would like to have dinner with: Chelsea Handler, L. Wayne, Matthew McConaughay. I want to meet the Kardashian family.

Pet peeve: Slow drivers. Or, when you are at a red light and someone has their turn signal on to turn right but they don't turn. It makes me a bit mad, get a little road rage.

If I had a superpower, I would be invisible so I could listen to other people's conversations. I am nosy.

If I won the lottery, I would buy a new house for my family and then a house for me.

Favorite dance routine: Last year we did a dance to "got a bottle" and "Basement Party". Those were my favorite. This year it would be "Girls".

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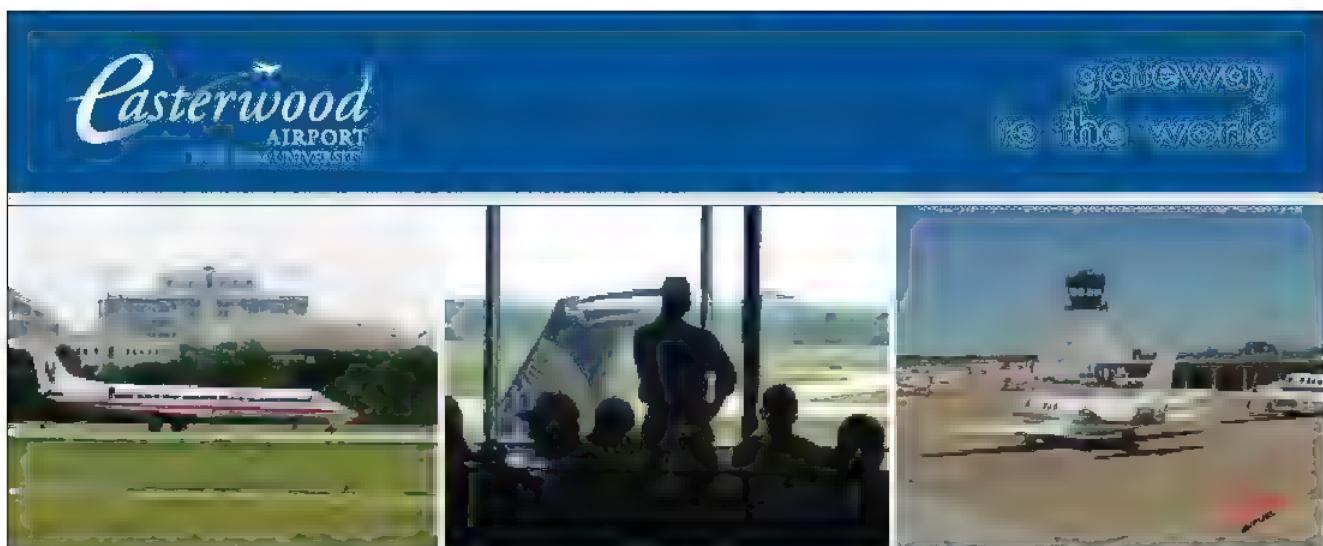
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chance encounter

BY KATIE MCCONNELL '09

Sammy Catalena '72 always dreamed of doing something big. Sammy, along with his wife, Carolyn are the proud owners of Catalena Hatters, the world famous hat store and factory located in downtown Bryan. The Catalenas have provided hats to everyone from local residents, customers across the globe and many famous faces including Garth Brooks, Neil McCoy, George H.W. Bush and Willie Nelson.

Sammy was born and raised in Bryan, TX and unlike many people who grow up in the Brazos Valley, he never wanted to move away. Sammy knew he wanted to go to Texas A&M and never thought twice about it.

"Living here gave me a good understanding of how meaningful the Aggie network is," he said.

Sammy, also a Vietnam veteran, has traveled all over the world and has become a part of Texas history, but it all started with a chance encounter 1,000 miles away from home.

While traveling through Florida, Sammy came across a magazine advertisement for the sale of a complete custom hat operation.

"The owner realized he wouldn't be able to fulfill his dream of having an old style hat shop," Sammy said. "Other big name hat companies had been through, but that man would only sell his equipment to someone who would make hats like he wanted to by hand. I was that guy."

It was through his life-long involvement in the rodeo and in helping at the former Whitten Hatters that he first discovered his fascination for hats. For Sammy, a good hat symbolized ev-

erything that he loved.

In 1983, Catalena Hatters opened its doors and began creating their renowned hats. Along with making hats, the Catalena's are heavily involved in the rodeo business, the Catalena Cowgirls and ranching.

"The hat business started it all," Sammy explained as he pointed to a world map on the wall. "There probably isn't a single place on that map that we haven't sold a hat to."

In fact, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Catalenas even received a letter from East Germany requesting one of their hats.

"We had to take the letter to the university to have it translated in order to know what it said and how to place their order," Carolyn recalled.

Being highly requested is just one of the ways in which Sammy and Carolyn's business stands apart from the rest.

"Not a lot of people know what goes on in this little, old building in downtown Bryan," Sammy added.

Still using the same 1920s equipment that got them started, the Catalenas clean, renovate and create custom-built cowboy hats – an in-depth process that not only takes time and commitment, but also the desire to do the job well. Because of his thorough construction and genuine, quality work, very few custom hat shops like Catalena Hatters exist.

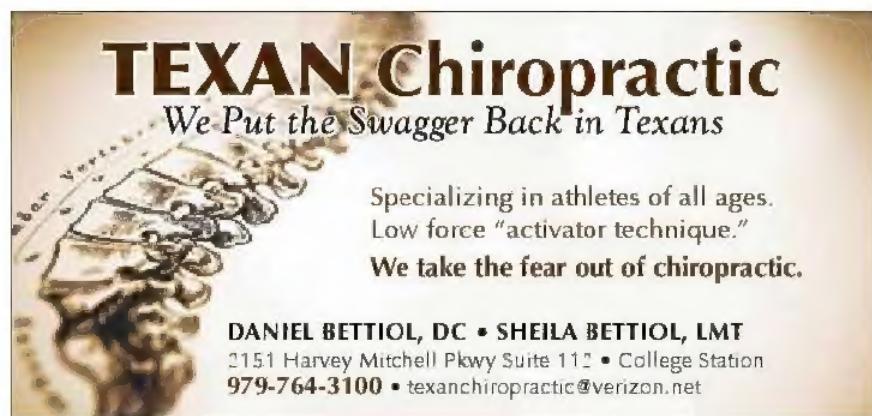
"There might be 20 scattered throughout the United States," Carolyn said.

While the business has been growing, so has the Catalena family. Now, two of their sons – Travis, who has been working with hats for over 26 years, and Scott who is currently a senior at Texas A&M – are integral parts of the hat making operation.

After 26 years in business in the town they love, Sammy and Carolyn don't have any regrets. After all, Catalena Hatters helped them achieve their dreams – and then some. ■

"The hat business started it all. There probably isn't a single place on that map that we haven't sold a hat to."

—SAMMY CATALENA

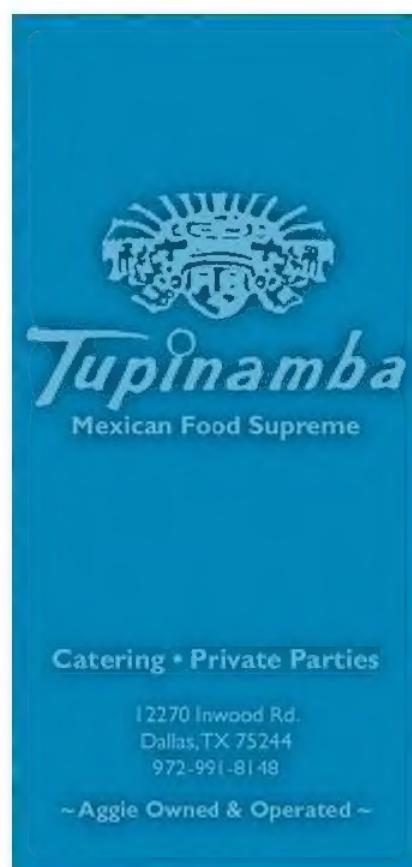


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